

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A method of reporting existence of a specified condition in a system attribute,
said method comprising:

receiving a request from a client to notify said client of a condition of an attribute of a
system, wherein said request comprises information specifying a query for said system
attribute;

5 querying said system as specified by said request;

deriving data about said system attribute to determine if said condition exists; and

upon determining that said condition exists, notifying said client of the existence of
said condition.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said deriving data comprises generating
derived data based upon the result of said query of said system.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said condition is a change in said attribute.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said attribute is selected from the group
consisting of:

membership of nodes within a cluster, configuration of a cluster, status of a peripheral
device, failure of computer hardware, access to local peripherals, addition of shared
5 peripherals, removal of shared peripherals, ownership of a shared peripheral, availability of
shared peripherals for addition to a cluster, resilience to faults of a High Availability cluster,
performance potential of a cluster, and any combination thereof.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said client is selected from the group
consisting of a user and a client application program.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said information specifying a query for said system attribute is an SQL query.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said SQL query comprises an SQL view.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein said information specifying a query for said system attribute comprises multiple transactions bracketed together.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein said condition comprises:
multiple conditions bracketed together, wherein upon determining that such bracketed conditions exist, notifying said client of the existence of such bracketed conditions.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said condition comprises:
multiple changes bracketed together, wherein upon determining that such bracketed changes exist, notifying said client of the existence of such bracketed changes.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein said client is a graphical user interface (GUI) that displays information to a human user.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said GUI displays information about one or more attributes of a system to a human user, and wherein said deriving data comprises deriving data to determine if a condition of said one or more attributes exists such that the GUI should redraw the graphics displaying said information about said one or more attributes.

13. A reporting application for reporting the existence of a specified condition in a system attribute to a client, said reporting application comprising:

computer executable software code for receiving from a client a request to notify said client of a condition of an attribute of a system, wherein said request comprises information specifying a query for said system attribute;

computer executable code for querying said system as specified by said request;

computer executable software code for deriving data about said system attributes;

computer executable software code for determining from said derived data if said condition exists; and

computer executable software code that, upon determining that said condition exists, notifies said client of the existence of said condition.

14. The reporting application of claim 13, wherein said information specifying a query for said system attribute is an SQL query.

15. The reporting application of claim 14, wherein said SQL query comprises an SQL view.

16. The reporting application of claim 13, wherein said condition is a change in said attribute.

17. The reporting application of claim 13, wherein said condition comprises:

multiple conditions bracketed together, wherein upon said computer executable software code determining that such bracketed conditions exist, said computer executable software code notifying said client of the existence of such bracketed conditions.

18. A system for reporting the existence of a specified condition in a system attribute to a client, said system comprising:

means for storing a reporting application;

a means for executing said reporting application;

wherein said reporting application includes computer executable software code for receiving from a client a request to notify said client of a condition of an attribute of a system, said request comprising information specifying a query for said system attribute, computer executable software code for determining if said condition exists, and computer executable software code that, upon determining that said condition exists, notifies said client of the existence of said condition.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein said client is selected from the group consisting of a user and a client application program.

20. The system of claim 18, further comprising:
multiple nodes, wherein at least one of said nodes is executing said reporting application.

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